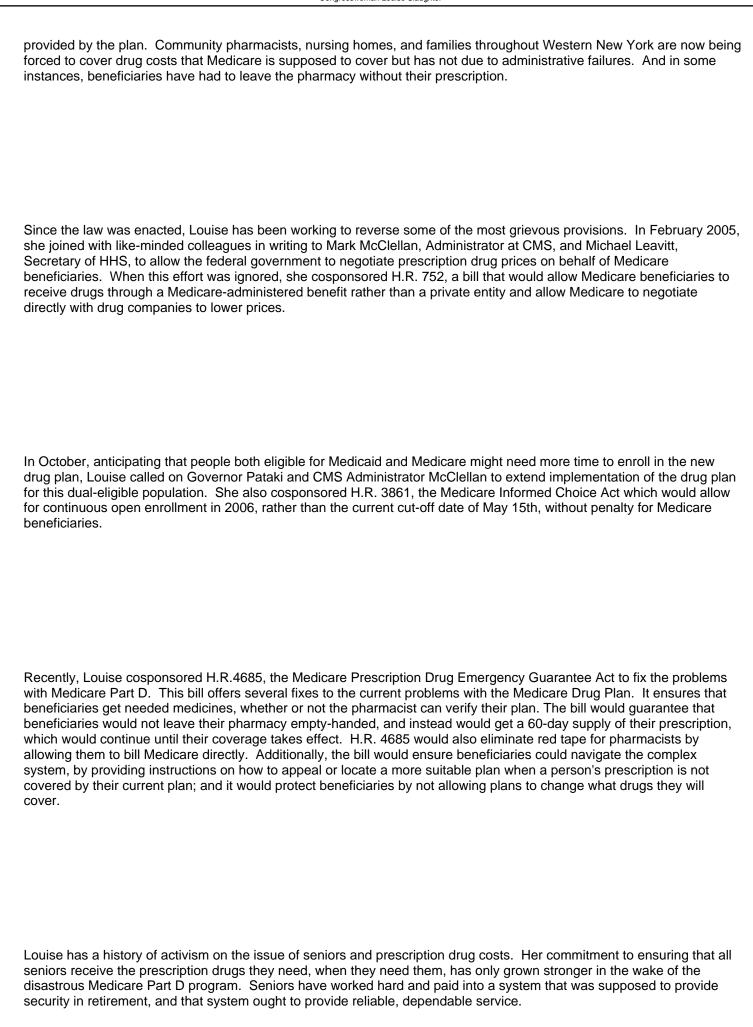
issues - seniors
Seniors
Supporting Programs Important to America's Seniors
Rep. Louise Slaughter has a long record of supporting the issues important to her older constituents. From Social Security and Medicare, to Meals on Wheels, Louise has been at the forefront of efforts to preserve these programs for current and future retirees.
Tackling the Problems with the Medicare Prescription Drug Plan
Over the past thirty years, medical research has produced hundreds of pharmaceuticals that can improve and prolong the health and lives of patients. In some cases, drug treatment has completely replaced surgical procedures. Clearly, Medicare should cover these important drugs and enable all seniors to access them. Too many seniors are forced to choose between their medication and other necessities because drugs are too expensive, and Medicare does not pay for them.
In 2003, the Republican Leadership of the House of Representatives forced the passage of a Medicare reform package to provide prescription drug coverage. Louise opposed this bill because she believed it would benefit drug companies while failing to promote any meaningful relief for our seniors struggling with skyrocketing prescription costs. Unfortunately, the failure of Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to ensure a smooth transition to new Medicare Prescription Drug plan has made a bad program worse and has yielded disastrous consequences for seniors and persons with disabilities. Too many people have been given confusing information about the level of coverage



Congresswoman Louise Slaughter
Protecting and Expanding Medicare
Louise supported and voted for new Medicare preventive care benefits, including coverage for mammograms, screening for prostate, colorectal, and cervical cancer, and bone mass measurements for osteoporosis. At the same time, she
opposed major Medicare cuts that would have forced the government either to raise premiums, deductibles, and copayments to the elderly; reduce benefits; or both. During her tenure in Congress, Louise has authored legislation to cut Medicare waste, fraud and abuse by requiring all medical equipment to bear a scannable Universal Product Number for inventory and billing purposes, as well as a bill to provide assistance and information to senior citizens who wish to purchase supplemental Medicare insurance policies (Medigap).
Preserving Social Security
Together, Social Security and Medicare have allowed the United States to enjoy one of the lowest elderly poverty rates in the world. Louise believes firmly that Social Security must be kept on solid financial footing and has supported responsible legislation to achieve this goal. She actively opposed the President's plan to privatize Social Security because it would drain \$712 billion from the Social Security Trust Fund and slash benefits for future middle-class retirees
by 40 percent. Although efforts to prevent privatization were successful last year, the President renewed his plans to

privatize Social Security in the FY07 budget. Again, Louise is committed to defeating efforts that would jeopardize the critical protections of the safety-net program by entrusting it to the whims of the stock market.
In addition, Louise has supported and voted for legislation that dramatically increased the amount beneficiaries can earn in outside income without seeing reduced Social Security benefits. She has also cosponsored legislation to amend the Government Pension Offset, which uniformly reduces Social Security benefits for government workers.
Keeping Seniors Healthy and Independent
Louise strongly supported reauthorization of the Older Americans Act to allow programs like Retired Seniors Volunteer Program (RSVP), Foster Grandparents, and senior employment to continue uninterrupted. She has fought to shield nutrition programs like Meals on Wheels from cuts and called on the President to fully fund the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) to assist the elderly and low-income families with winter heating costs.
Social Security and Medicare are among the most successful programs our country has undertaken. Older Americans have worked hard and sacrificed themselves to ensure a better, stronger country for future generations. These programs are a measure of what we truly value, and who we are as a nation. And Louise will continue to take a leading role to improve rather than undermine Social Security and Medicare.